



Sandstone by the sea

Category:
AUSTRALIAN STONE
Best Residential
Project

Project:
Private residence

Architecture:
Shane Simonian Architect

Stone Supplied:
Gosford Quarries

Like many streets in Sydney, this site is accessed by a ridge road, but unlike most, the road meanders north on a knife edge with a wildly changing view of Whale Beach to east, and a calmer bay to the west. The site provides a fluid bridge between the two, represented in the built form both in plan and section. Where, despite the topography, the entry, living areas, courtyard and rear gardens are connected by a seemingly uninterrupted sequence of external spaces. If the house was a metaphor of this landscape, then the sheltered courtyard acts as the bay protected by the curvaceous arm of the lounge as it extends around it.

The courtyard, once opened, becomes an extension of the interior spaces, merging otherwise quite separate areas. The filtering

awning both protects (from rain and sun) and directs the eye.

While the main living level is generally open plan, it is discretely ordered: The entry, a gap between the garden wall which gradually wraps around the library and the main living and sleeping pavilion, acts as the spine of the site. Its walls are operable, becoming a breezeway, which together with the awning can moderate light and guide with its form, material and pattern deep into the living areas.

Mt White sandstone flows from the interior of the library, to the external entertainment area, down to the garden beds and lawn. This fine project illustrates the part that natural stone can play as a construction material and a decorative surface finish. ⁰⁵

